

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have mooted a proposal for privatisation of health services and major hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be finalised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) At present there is no proposal under consideration in this Ministry to privatise Central Government Hospitals. Since Health is a State subject under the Constitution of India, privatisation of State Hospitals comes under the purview of respective State Governments.

Purchase of Microscopes by DDG(TB)

2839. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that DDG(TB) has made purchase of microscopes worth Rs. five crores;

(b) if so, whether the purchase was made on tender basis;

(c) if so, the names of participants with their quotation, and the lowest cost of microscopes on which the tender was accepted;

(d) whether it is also a fact that these microscopes are not being used; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) The Microscopes for the World Bank assisted TB Control Project for 1999-2000 were procured by HSCC, the independent procurement agency appointed for this purpose. The procurement was made through International Competitive Bidding (ICB), as per World Bank norms. Names of the bidders who participated in the Tender and the models quoted by them is enclosed in Statement-I. (See below) The bids were evaluated by an expert committee based on technical and commercial parameters. The per unit cost of the selected microscope was Rs. 26,648.64/-, which was the lowest price for the bid that was both technically and commercially responsive.

(d) and (e) These microscopes are being extensively used in the RNTCP districts to which they have been supplied for quality sputum microscopy for diagnosis of TB cases.

Statement

Procurement of Binocular Microscopes

No. of Bidders participated in the tender : 17

Total Quantity of Microscopes : 2968

S.No.	Name of Bidder	Model
1	M/s. Olympus Optical Co. Ltd.	Olympus CH 20 Olympus CH 30
2	M/s. Speed Fair Co. Ltd.	BI 200A
3	M/s. Saraswati Dynamics Pvt. Ltd.	KB-2
4	M/s. Towa Optics (India) Pvt. Ltd.	YS2-H Alphaphot-2
5	M/s. India International Marketing Centre	Not Mentioned
6	M/s. Leica Microsystem Inc.	Biomed-E
7	M/s. N.K. Jain Instrument Pvt. Ltd.	Labomed Vision-2000 Labomed CXL—Plus
8	M/s. Zydus Pathline a Div. Of Cadila Healthcare Ltd.	Optima
9	M/s. China National Technical Import & Export Corporation	XS-200
10	M/s. Ideal Medical Products SA	BK Topic B
11	M/s. Bharat Electronics Ltd.	BEBM-9702
12	M/s. Getner International	L-2000 with Standard achoromatic objectives L-2000 high grade achoromatic objectives (Splan) L-2000A high grade achoromatic objectives

S.No.	Name of Bidder	Model
		(Plan) for high resolution & Optical contrast
13	M/s. Gener Instruments Pvt. Ltd.	Kyowa Medulix-20
14	M/s. Getner Optical Industries	BK-1209A BK-1200B BK-1200C
15	M/s. Carl Zeiss India Pvt. Ltd.	Zeiss
16	M/s. H.D. Consortium, India	XS2-HI
17	M/s. Light Instruments (PTE) Ltd.	MLW-Lab

Investigations against DDG(TB)

2840. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigation against DDG(TB) is on for purchase of Binocular Microscope, from M/s. Light Instrument Ltd., Singapore, through their Indian agent; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the DDG(TB)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Eradication of AIDS

2841. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, "AIDS is the biggest killer in India: UN", published in the Asian Age dated the 23rd July, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to eradicate the killer disease; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to tackle this menace with a coordinated approach with the foreign countries and if so, the details thereof?